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EXAMINER

NALVEN, ANDREW L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2134

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/874,574

Applicant(s)

GRAHAM, ROBERT DAVID

Examiner

Andrew L Nalven

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/4/01, 4/28/03, 5/14/03 10/28/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-57 are pending.
2. Information disclosure statements submitted 6/4/01, 4/28/03, 5/14/03, and 10/28/03 have been received and considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6, 14-15, 18-21, 25-26, 32, 34, 37-42, 50-51, and 54-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668. Gleichauf discloses a method for adaptive network security using network vulnerability assessments.
5. With regards to claims 1, 14, 18, 37, 50, 54, 56, Gleichauf teaches the detecting of a data signature (Gleichauf, column 6 lines 36-45) and the correlating of the data signature with a fingerprint of the target to determine to what extent the target is vulnerable to the data signature (Gleichauf, column 6 lines 51-56, likelihood of success).

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6. With regards to claims 2, 25, 34, 38, Gleichauf teaches the evaluating of contextual information relating to the data signature to determine a likelihood that the target is under attack (Gleichauf, column 6 lines 25-36).
7. With regards to claims 3, 20, 39, Gleichauf teaches the fingerprint including a target node's operating system (Gleichauf, column 3 lines 62-65).
8. With regards to claims 4, 21, 40, Gleichauf teaches the fingerprint including the node's processor type (Gleichauf, column 3 lines 62-65, devices, column 7 lines 1-4).
9. With regards to claims 5, 15, 26, 41, 51, Gleichauf teaches the contextual information including a particular network protocol with which the data signature was transmitted (Gleichauf, column 8 lines 28-45, column 6 lines 25-36).
10. With regards to claim 6, 42, Gleichauf teaches the generating of a first alert condition upon determining that the target node is vulnerable to the data signature (Gleichauf, column 8 lines 28-52, determined probability of success, prioritizing monitoring).
11. With regards to claims 19, 55, Gleichauf teaches the fingerprint including a particular service executed on the target (Gleichauf, column 7 lines 51-60, services).
12. With regards to claim 32, Gleichauf teaches the profiling of the target to determine which ports are open by passively listening to what traffic succeeds in talking to/from the target (Gleichauf, column 7 lines 40-49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 7-8, 10-12, 22, 27, 29-31, 43-44, 46-48, 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 in view of Conklin et al US Patent No. 5,991,881. Conklin teaches a network surveillance system.

15. With regards to claims 7, 43, Gleichauf fails to teach the listening for a response to a data signature from the target. Conklin teaches the listening for a response to a data signature from the target (Conklin, column 6 lines 21-43, column 7 lines 25-29, evidence logging function). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Conklin's method of listening with Gleichauf's adaptive security system because it offers the advantage of ensuring continuing reporting of all pertinent activities following the detection of a predefined alert condition (Conklin, column 1 lines 35-49).

16. With regards to claims 8, 44, Gleichauf as modified teaches the determining whether the target node's response or lack of a response is suspicious (Gleichauf, column 7 lines 29-38).

17. With regards to claims 10, 46, Gleichauf as modified teaches the generating of a second alert condition upon determining that the target node's response or lack of a response is suspicious (Conklin, column 7 lines 25-38, alert notification).

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18. With regards to claims 11, 47, Gleichauf as modified teaches the combining of the second alert with the first, thereby updating the first alert with information within the second alert (Conklin, column 8 lines 6-14, column 7 lines 44-50).

19. With regards to claims 12, 48, Gleichauf fails to teach the listening for behavior of the target node and sending an alert condition. Conklin teaches the listening for behavior of the target node (Conklin, column 8 lines 1-5) and generating a second alert condition upon determining that the target node's behavior is suspicious (Gleichauf, column 7 lines 51-61). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Conklin's method of listening to the behavior of the target with Gleichauf's adaptive security system because it offers the advantage of ensuring continuing reporting of all pertinent activities following the detection of a predefined alert condition (Conklin, column 1 lines 35-49).

20. With regards to claims 22, 29 and 57, Gleichauf fails to teach the monitoring of responses from the target following the data signature and determining a likelihood of whether the target is under attack based on the data signatures of the responses. Conklin teaches the monitoring of responses from the target following the data signature and determining a likelihood of whether the target is under attack based on the data signatures of the responses (Gleichauf, column 7 lines 29-38). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Conklin's method of listening with Gleichauf's adaptive security system because it offers the advantage of ensuring continuing reporting of all pertinent activities following the detection of a predefined alert condition (Conklin, column 1 lines 35-49).

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21. With regards to claim 27, Gleichauf fails to teach the protocol being FTP.

Conklin teaches the protocol being FTP (Conklin, column 3 lines 8-14). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Conklin's method of monitoring FTP with Gleichauf's adaptive security system because it offers the advantage of allowing the monitoring of one of the principal network protocols used to transfer files.

22. With regards to claims 30-31, Gleichauf fails to teach the current state comprising an inbound or outbound connection from the target following a detected signature. Conklin teaches the current state comprising an inbound or outbound connection from the target following a detected signature (Conklin, column 8 lines 1-5). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Conklin's method of listening with Gleichauf's adaptive security system because it offers the advantage of ensuring continuing reporting of all pertinent activities following the detection of a predefined alert condition (Conklin, column 1 lines 35-49).

23. Claims 9, 23 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 and Conklin et al US Patent No. 5,991,881, as applied to claims 8, 22, and 44 above, and in further view of Krumel US PGPub 2002/0083331.

24. With regards to claims 9, 23 and 45, Gleichauf as modified above fail to teach the determining if a packet is an unknown command. Krumel teaches the determining if a

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packet is an unknown command (Krumel, Page 7, Paragraph 0085, unknown packet type). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Krumel's method of detecting unknown commands because it offers the advantage of ensuring that no packets that do not fit set security filters are allowed to pass in and out of a network (Krumel, Page 7, Paragraph 0085 and Page 7 Paragraph 0087).

25. Claims 13 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 and Conklin et al US Patent No. 5,991,881, as applied to claims 11 and 47 above, and in further view of Zhang et al "Detecting Backdoors."

26. With regards to claims 13 and 49, Gleichauf as modified above fails to teach suspicious behavior comprising the transmitting of a root shell prompt to a suspect node. Zhang teaches teach suspicious behavior comprising the transmitting of a root shell prompt to a suspect node (Zhang, Page 12, Section 4.5, Root Backdoor). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Zhang's method of detecting root shell transmissions with Gleichauf as modified because it offers the advantage of preventing an attack from gaining unauthorized access to a system by the use of a backdoor (Zhang, Page 1 Section 1.Introduction).

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27. Claims 16, 35, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 in view of Ji et al US Patent No. 6,728,886. Ji discloses a distributed virus scanning arrangement.

28. With regards to claims 16, 35, and 52, Gleichauf, as described above, fails to teach the protocol being HTTP protocol. Ji teaches a data signature being a message in the form of the HTTP protocol (Ji, column 6 lines 23-38). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Ji's method of detecting HTTP with Gleichauf's adaptive security system because it offers the advantage of allowing the monitoring of a popular method of transferring data across the internet thus reducing the likelihood of a security breach (Ji, column 1 line 63 – column 2 line 8).

29. Claims 17 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 and Ji et al US Patent No. 6,728,886, as applied to claim 16 above, and in further view of Farrow "Security Reality Check."

30. With regards to claims 17 and 53, Gleichauf as modified above fails to teach the detecting of a data signature of "cgi-bin/phf." Farrow teaches the detection of the data signature of "cgi-bin/phf" (Farrow, Page 2, "Stealth Attacks" Paragraph 4). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Farrow's method of detecting the data signature of "cgi-bin/phf" because it offers the advantage of helping prevent attacks because the data signature is a valid indication of an attack upon a system (Farrow, Page 2, "Stealth Attacks" Paragraph 4).

31. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668, Conklin et al US Patent No. 5,991,881, and Krumel US PGPub 2002/0083331, as applied to claim 23 above, and in further view of Zhang et al "Detecting Backdoors."

32. With regards to claim 24, Gleichauf as modified teaches the data signature being FTP (Conklin, column 3 lines 8-14), but fails to teach the response being a raw shell connection. Zhang teaches teach suspicious behavior comprising the transmitting of a root shell prompt to a suspect node (Zhang, Page 12, Section 4.5, Root Backdoor). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Zhang's method of detecting root shell transmissions with Gleichauf as modified because it offers the advantage of preventing an attack from gaining unauthorized access to a system by the use of a backdoor (Zhang, Page 1 Section 1.Introduction).

33. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 and Conklin et al US Patent No. 5,991,881, as applied to claim 27 above, and in further view of Bernhard et al US Patent No. 6,275,942.

34. With regards to claim 28, Gleichauf as modified above fails to teach the data signature being passwd in a context where filenames are likely to appear. Bernhard teaches the data signature being passwd in a context where filenames are likely to

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appear (Bernhard, column 13 lines 20-34). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Bernhard's method of checking for passwd because it offers the advantage of helping ensure that the /etc/passwd file remains secure from attacks (Bernhard, column 13 lines 20-34).

35. Claims 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gleichauf et al US Patent No. 6,301,668 in further view of Krumel US PGPub 2002/0083331.

36. With regards to claim 33, Gleichauf as described above fails to teach the determining if a packet is an unknown command. Krumel teaches the determining if a packet is an unknown command (Krumel, Page 7, Paragraph 0085, unknown packet type). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Krumel's method of detecting unknown commands because it offers the advantage of ensuring that no packets that do not fit set security filters are allowed to pass in and out of a network (Krumel, Page 7, Paragraph 0085 and Page 7 Paragraph 0087).

37. With regards to claim 36, Gleichauf, as described above, fails to teach the protocol being RPC. Krumel teaches the protocol being RPC (Krumel, pages 23-24, paragraph 0191). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize Krumel's method of monitoring the RPC protocol because it offers the advantage of allowing the monitoring of communications between gateways and PLD devices (Krumel, pages 23-24, paragraph 0191).

Conclusion

38. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L Nalven whose telephone number is 571 272 3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-6, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on 571 272 3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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